

NEGRO AMERICAN LEAGUE

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1943 - 1944

CHICAGO AMERICAN GIANTS
KANSAS CITY MONARCHS
MEMPHIS RED SOX
BIRMINGHAM BLACK BARONS
CLEVELAND BUCKEYES
CINCINNATI CLOWNS

February 8, 1944

Mrs. Effa Manley
71 Crawford Street
Newark 2, New Jersey

Dear Mrs. Manley:

I received your letter and it is always a pleasure for me to hear from you. I had a letter from Cum stating that the National League wanted to break their contract with us and said the league had discussed it very thoroughly. Just what part of the contract he means I am at a loss. He also states that they are still in favor of one big league which will mean only eight clubs.

I have spoken to some of our members and they don't seem to want to come to New York just for a Schedule Meeting, however, I think I am going to insist on their coming. It is too bad that we have some people in the league always trying to break the two leagues up. But there is one sure thing and I have the assurance if a club takes another club's player this year he will not be allowed to play in any big league park. That is definitely settled and you know it is impossible for the clubs to operate unless they play in the big league parks.

Since I received your letter I have found out several things that would surprise you however, I think it is impossible for them to develop. The story you sent to Wendell I think is fine. Find enclosed your release to Wendell. Thanks very much for the confidence you have in me but you can write me when you want to and it will always be confidential regardless to the disagreement we may have.

It is impossible for me to hear from Mr. Wilson. I have written him two or three letters to date but there has been no reply. Our league seems to be in fine shape. They all made more money this last year than they ever made in the history of baseball. I think they are well pleased.

Mrs. Effa Manley--2

February 8, 1944

We are definitely going to have a statistician. I think I would be safe in saying it will be Wendell Smith. I will keep you posted on our activities out here. I will be able to advise you within the next ten days if we are coming to New York on the 3rd. We are in need of a first baseman. I suppose we would have a lot of trouble from the league to get a first baseman from you. After all they would have to waive on him. We are still losing players. I am going to try to talk to Mr. Wilson over the telephone as I cannot receive a letter from him.

This is hoping you all the success this season. Regards to Abe, I am

Yours respectfully,


J. B. Martin

JBM:R